THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) After the first meeting of the Anomalies Committee, which was held on 5/1/2001, the then Secretary Staff Side and some other Members of the Staff Side of the Departmental Council (JCM) of the Department of Personnel & Training lost in the organizational elections of their Association, namely, the Central Secretariat Non-Gazetted Employees Union. The Union started representing for replacement of these Members by the newly elected office bearers on the ground that the said Members had, on account of having lost the elections, ceased to be the representatives of the staff. On the other hand, the opposite faction of the staff questioned the validity of the elections of the new office bearers.

When it was proposed to hold the next meeting of the Anomalies Committee on 6/12/2001, the Union strongly opposed participation of the old Members of the Staff Side and reiterated their demand for replacement of old Members by the new office bearers, before a meeting of the Anomalies Committee could be convened. Consequently, the meeting scheduled for 6/12/2001 had to be postponed pending a decision on the new nominations made by the Union to the Staff Side of the Departmental Council.

After a through examination of the matter, nominations of the new members to the Staff Side were accepted by the competent authority in February, 2002, to the extent covered by the relevant rules/policy. The reconstituted Staff Side thereafter elected their new Leader and Secretary and their election was formalised in June, 2002.

Resumption of LTC Facility

984. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering resuming LTC facility for the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details of the decisions/proposals;

(c) whether Goernment propose to amend the rules in view of the drastic cuts in air fares; and

(d) if not, whether it would be done, if requested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The LTC facilities to Central Government employees were suspended as a part of expenditure management. There is no proposal under consideration to restore it.

Right to Information Bill

†985. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bill related to Right to Information to common citizen is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, when the decision was taken to pass the Bill; and

(c) whether Government would bring the said Bill for consideration and passing in the House during the present Monsoon session?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) With a view to introducing greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies, Government had introduced the 'Freedom of Information Bill, 2000' in the Lok Sabha on 25th July, 2000. The Bill, as introduced in the Lok Sabha and pending therein, was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report thereon. The Standing Committee presented its Report to both the Houses of Parliament on 25th July, 2001. The recommendations made by the Committee in its Report have been examined and efforts are being made to bring up the Bill for consideration of the House at the earliest.

Corruption in Government Departments

†986. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.